

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6952

BILL NUMBER: SB 412

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 4, 2010

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Irrigation systems and water well pump installer licensing.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Mishler

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: *Soil Moisture Sensor.* This bill provides that a commercial or residential irrigation system installed after July 1, 2010, must have a soil moisture sensor. The bill requires the Water Pollution Control Board to establish a program for the annual inspection of soil moisture sensors.

Water Well Pump Installer License. The bill provides that a person must have a water well pump installer license to install or repair water well pumps or water well pumping equipment.

Continuing Education for Pump Installers and Drillers. The bill requires a water well pump installer and a water well driller to complete six hours of continuing education every two years. The bill establishes procedures for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to approve continuing education courses. It allows the DNR to enter into a contract with the Indiana Ground Water Association (IGWA) to administer the continuing education program.

Effective Date: July 1, 2010; January 1, 2011.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Soil Moisture Sensor.* The Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) provides staffing for the Water Pollution Control Board. The bill requires the Board to adopt rules. The bill's requirements are within IDEM's routine administrative functions and should be able to be implemented with no additional appropriations.

Water Well Pump Installer License. The bill provides that the DNR must issue a water well pump installer license to qualified individuals. The DNR currently issues licenses for water well drillers. Any additional expenses incurred by the DNR for the issuance of water well pump installers could be paid for by license

fees.

Continuing Education for Pump Installers. The bill requires a water well pump installer and a water well driller to complete six hours of continuing education every two years. The bill establishes procedures for the DNR to approve continuing education courses. An institution, organization, governmental agency, or individual that wishes to offer continuing education courses must apply in writing and submit certain information to the DNR for approval of each course. The DNR must maintain and make available to the public a list of future continuing education courses that will satisfy the continuing education requirements. A license holder may apply in writing to the DNR for a waiver or modification of the continuing education requirements under certain conditions. The bill allows the DNR to enter into a contract with the IGWA to administer the continuing education program. Expenses associated with the program could be minimal and will depend on arrangements the DNR makes with the IGWA or other qualified entities to provide the education.

Competency Exams. In consultation with the IGWA, the DNR must prepare one or more competency examinations to determine whether an applicant for a water well pump installer license is qualified. Expenses associated with the exams could be paid with exam fees set by the DNR director.

Explanation of State Revenues: *Water Well Pump Installer License.* The bill provides that a person must have a water well pump installer license to install or repair water well pumps or water well pumping equipment. An application for a license must be accompanied by a license fee of \$100. Currently, there are 500 licensed water well drillers with about 500 water well plumbers. If the 500 plumbers applied for a pump installers license, revenue generated by the fee would equal \$50,000 every two years. Fee revenue would be deposited into the state General Fund.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Requiring licensing and continuing education at the state level could reduce local expenditures associated with overseeing water well drillers and water well pump installers.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: IDEM, DNR.

Local Agencies Affected: Local units.

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